リカチ

The Ice Queen

Rikachi Presents

氷の女王

1

Kodansha Comics

BETSUFURE

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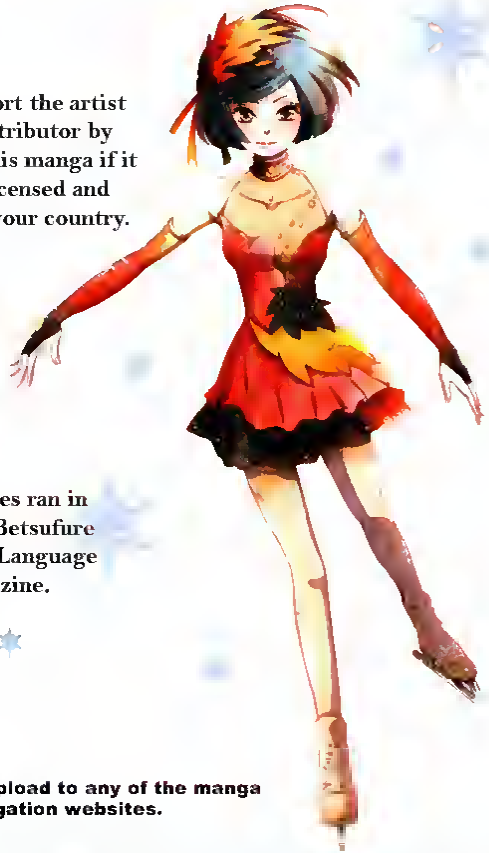

This series ran in monthly Betsufure Japanese Language magazine.

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氷の女王

2

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CONTENTS

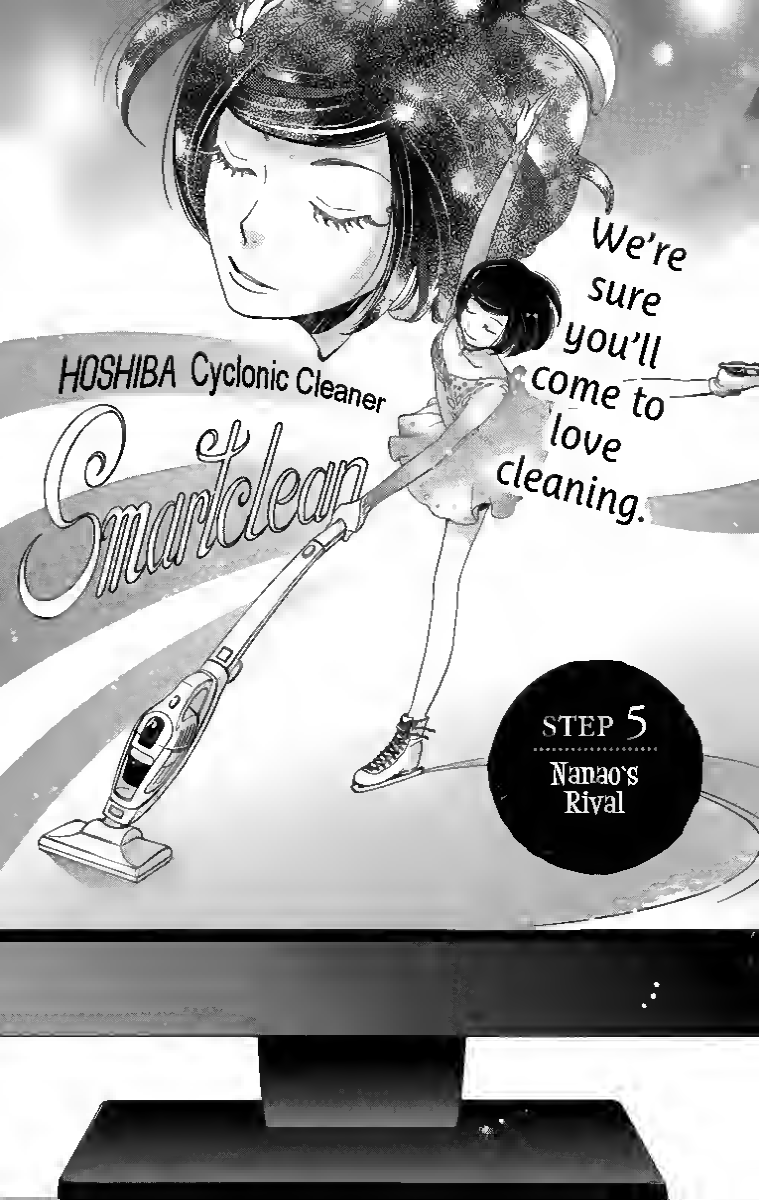
STEP 5
Nanao's Rival
5

STEP 6
Minato's Feelings
45

STEP 7
My Prince
89

LAST STEP
The Ice Queen
131

And velvety smooth
That powerful spin!
dynamic power when you need it
Marvelous!
STEP 5
Nanao's Rival
in a compact and stylish form!


HOSHIBA Cyclonic Cleaner
Smartclean
We're sure you'll come to love cleaning.
STEP 5
Nanao's Rival

That's weird.
WHAT IS?
The nationwide Internet commercial I'm in came out! Wasn't it supposed to make people think,
"Isn't that no-nonsense girl cute?"
BUT WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?!
Ki Fan Pie Chart
Male 0. 3 %
Women 30 and over
Teen Girls
Women in their 20s

I like girls with bigger breasts.
Teen boy
A girl with a more upbeat personality is a bit more...
Male in his 20s
As of now, she's not marrying material.
Male in his 30s
I HAVE ZERO POPULARITY AMONG GUYS! WHAT THE HECK?!
JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE WEIRD!
THE INTERVIEW YOU GAVE ABOUT SKATING
THIS, FOR EXAMPLE
I already told you that vacuum cleaner commercial would become joke fodder
THE WEIRD ONE IS YOU
ICE SKATE VIEW
OH, THAT
MINATO!

COULDN'T YOU HAVE AT LEAST SAID THAT YOU IMAGINE YOU'RE A MAGICAL GIRL OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I want to whirl like a spinning top!
I HAVE NO USE FOR SPINNING.
LET'S SEE, I THINK ABOUT KA*** RIDER AND ULTRA***!
HUH? WHEN I'M JUMPING?
I jump like I'm a transforming hero!
SHOVE!
Perform elegantly!!
BUT THAT'S HOW YOU BECOME POPULAR WITH GUYS!!
UGH!
UH, BUT DO YOU REALLY NEED TO BE POPULAR WITH GUYS NOW? YOU ARE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND
YOU TWO.

※この物語はフィクションであり、実在の人物、団体、出来事などとは一切関係ありません。

THE GUY WHO I THOUGHT WAS MY FRIEND CONFESSED TO ME?
YOU WILL
FALL IN LOVE WITH ME
Too much of a simplification
KIWAKO IS A RIVAL
I didn't say it that way.
MY FEELINGS FOR THE GUY I'VE ALWAYS LIKED ARE UNREQUITED,
AND MY FEELINGS!! AND IT'S ALMOST BEEN 6 MONTHS
TO BE HONEST, I HAVEN'T SORTED OUT MY HEAD
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S NORMAL
I'VE LIVED ICE SKATING SINCE THE AGE OF 3
AM I BEING FICKLE? A BITCH?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I TURN HIM DOWN AND QUICKLY MOVE ON TO ANOTHER GUY?
IS IT NORMAL TO GO FROM FRIEND TO BOYFRIEND?

Whoa
HE REALLY DOES LIKE ME.
YEEKS! HE'S SERIOUS WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I FEEL AWK-WARD.
WELL, I'M NOT IN A HURRY.
.....
FOR NOW, WE'LL CONTINUE TO BE A BLANK SLATE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'S A RETURNEE WHO TRANSFERRED INTO THE CLASS NEXT DOOR.
OH,
HUH?
HE'S AN ALOOF HOT GUY
I HEARD HE ICE SKATES.

BA
M!
HMM,
IT'S TRUE;
HE IS HAND-SOME.
HIS HAIR IS LIKE KITAROU'S.

OH!
ME! ME!
Speak up! I can barely hear you!
HEY! HELLO! NI HAO! BON-JOUR!
UH, KIWAKO?
mumble
I HEARD KIWAKO CHIKURA IS IN THIS CLASS...
ME!
I SAID
I'M HER.
ERR, YOU'RE THE FIGURE SKATER KIWAKO CHIKURA?
MUMBLE

SPARKLE
SPARKLE
NO WAY.
SHE OUGHT TO BE MORE BEAUTIFUL.
.....
WHAAAT?!
She understands English.

SKID!
BUT HE'S GOOD...
AND WHY IS HE HERE?!

BA-BMP
HE'S GOOD ISN'T HE? THAT YUUKI SAIKA!
FROM NOW ON, HE'LL BE COMING TO OUR SKATING CLUB.
Whoa!
JUMP!
Crash...
HE SKATES WELL ENOUGH
HE HASN'T BEEN IN AN OFFICIAL COMPETITION YET, BUT

HE HASN'T BEEN IN AN OFFICIAL COMPETITION YET, BUT HE SKATES WELL ENOUGH TO
KIWAKO
OH?
DON'T SUDDENLY TALK TO ME AS IF YOU KNOW ME!
HAVE SOME COURTESY!
SKATE
WHY DOES SOMEONE LIKE ME
HAVE TO TAKE A REQUEST FROM SOMEONE LIKE YOU?!!!
← But she's skating
DON'T TAKE ME LIGHTLY!

I'LL DO THE
WATCH ME!!
WORLD-CHAMPION JUMP!!!
SUSH
KIWAKO REALLY IS NO GOOD DURING PRACTICE...
But she is strong in competition, so it's fine
UH!
SKA-THMP
.....

POOR ACTING.
AND
I WONDER WHAT HE MEANT?
HMM...
I DID
You did?
SHIT!!! SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS NO MATCH FOR NANAO! RIDICULOUS!
SAY IT TO HIM IN PERSON

SOME-
HOW... HIM
RIVALING
NANAO
SEEMS
UNLIKELY.
RIGHT!!
HE'S AN
AWFUL
GUY!
POOF
WELL, HE'S OF
NO CONCERN
TO ME,
AND A GUY LIKE
THAT HAS NO
BUSINESS BEING
ANYWHERE NEAR
YOU.
BLUSH
Uhhhhh!

Minato is the type who can say embarrassing things like that so straightforwardly?!
Yeeks, that was embarrassing.
WHOA!!
OH, I GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE ELSE!
HUH... UH... O OKAY.
Just now, I sounded too conceited.
.....
IT'S PROBABLY GOOD THAT I'M NOT POPULAR WITH GUYS
SINCE I'M LIKE THIS FROM JUST ONE GUY TALKING TO ME
THMP THMP
Oh. A text message from

AHH...
BUT WHEN I'M ON TOP OF THE ICE,
I CAN PLAY AN EVIL WOMAN WHO MANIPULATES MEN.
AH, BUT THAT'S A LIE. PARDON
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER OF EXPRESSION.
JUMPS AND SPINS ARE MY ONLY SPECIALTIES!
THE TRUTH IS, I KNOW IT'S BETTER TO QUICKLY MAKE TO A DECISION ABOUT MINATO, BUT...
It's dangerous to walk while looking at your smart phone!

I THINK IT'S COMFORTABLE STAYING LIKE THIS...
But it is!
BONK
What're you talking about?!
Walking while looking at your smartphone
You look ahead for me
I won't even tell you when there are stairs.
Umm
SPORTS PLAZA
Tennis Golf IceSkate

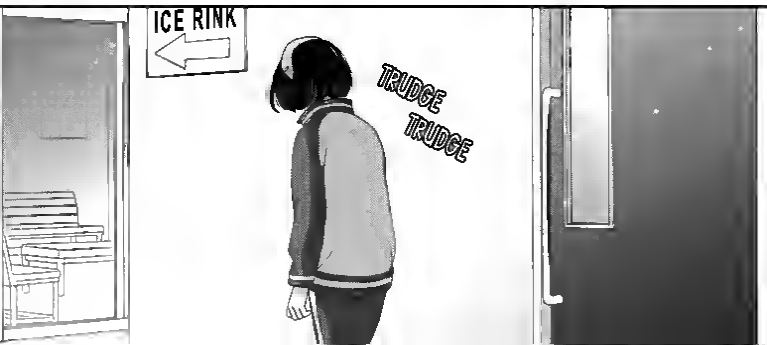
The theme is "first love"♥
JEFFREY, THE CHOREOGRAPHY SPECIALIST, WILL COACH YOU.
WHAT?
THIS SEASON'S FREE SKATE MUSIC IS "GISELLE"?
THE THEME IS "FIRST LOVE"...
THE FAMOUS BALLET "GISELLE"...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN A SUPER CUTE PROGRAM?!
Love
?!

EMBRACEABLE?!
KIWAKO, YOU'RE PETITE AND THIN, SO I THINK CUTE MUSIC WILL SUIT YOU!
WITH AN EMBRACE-ABLE FEEL TO IT!
A true Japanese beauty
BFF!
NO, MY CHARACTER IS
MORE BANG BANG!!! WHIRL, WHIRL, BOOM, BOOM, WHOOSH, WHOOSHY!!!
I'M PURE INTENSITY!
NO!
YOU MUSTN'T ALWAYS BE THAT WAY!
CHANGE, KIWAKO!
I was a ninja in the exhibition! Mt Fuji! Harakiri!

WHY ARE YOU AT THIS SECRET MEETING?!!!
Kitaro: Yuki!
OH! YUKI!!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
RIGHT?! YUKI, YOU THINK SO TOO, DON'T YOU?!! A JAPANESE BEAUTY!!
IT'D BE LIKE DRESSING A DRAFT HORSE
IN A KIMONO.
Hey Kitaro!
WAIT A MINUTE!
What?
I can't do the performance, but if I put on the costume I will turn into a Japanese beauty. You get my meaning?
If I get serious, I'll make all of America cry with my super cuteness!!
ARE YOU GONNA DO IT OR NOT?

I'M GONNA DO IT!!! AND AFTER, I'LL MAKE YOU ADMIT
THAT I'M SUPER CUTE AND YOU'LL CRY!!
SPORTS PLAZA
SPORTS PLAZA

HUG
WH ISH!
YES
LOOSEN UP RIGHT THERE,
LIKE YOU'RE HUGGING SOMEONE
SIGH


ICE RINK
TRUDGE
TRUDGE

HIGH...
AND HIS SPINS ARE FAST...
HE'S A LITTLE ROUGHER THAN NANAO
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE WHEN HE PERFORMS.
AH, HE'S JUMPING AGAIN..

SLISH!
IT MUST BE NICE.. BEING A BOY...
WERE YOU CHARMED?
I WAS WATCHING, BUT I WASN'T NECESSARILY CHARMED
I ENVY MEN'S JUMPING AND SPEED

AS GIRLS MATURE, IT IS DEMANDED THAT THEY BECOME FEMININE, RIGHT?
But that only applies to women
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T BE THAT WAY...
YOU SEE,
I ENVY THAT MEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO JUMP HIGHER AND UNLEASH MORE SPEED THAN WOMEN.
IT'S LIKE THEY OVERWHELM WITH POWER AND INTENSITY.
THAT'S THE KIND OF SKATING I ASPIRE TO DO.
BUT WHAT KIND OF MUSIC WILL YOU CHOOSE AND WHAT KIND OF SKATING WILL YOU SHOW?

KIWAKO!
HUH?
mumble
MINATO... AND
NANAO!!

Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh!
HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET THE ICE SKATING RETURNEE, SO I BROUGHT HIM WITH ME
OK, OK,
THIS IS THE MANNERLESS NEWCOMER, KITAROU
AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS MINATO AND JAPAN'S RISING STAR, AKIRA NANAO
SNFF SNFF
Huh? Kitarou?
MAY I WATCH YOU SKATE?
IF YOU LET ME SEE YOU SKATE TOO
THEY KINDA RESEMBLE ONE ANOTHER..
THEY SEEM KINDA COMPATIBLE..?

Hmm...
IT'S LIKE I'VE SEEN HIS SKATING SOMEWHERE BEFORE..
BUT HIS SKATING HAS MORE PASSION...
SO COOL

COOL, JUST AS ALWAYS.
YEAH... HE IS.
NANAO IS REALLY COOL.

.....
YOU MEAN "MEN'S SKATING", RIGHT?
MINATO, YOU SHOULD SKATE AGAIN.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THEM, I ALWAYS WANT TO SEE THEM SKATE
NO DOUBT KITAROU IS KITAROU
Still unknown
NANAO IS NANAO
Like a Prince
AFTER ALL THIS TIME
IT'S STILL A MYSTERY EVEN TO ME
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I DON'T HAVE THE MOTIVATION

I WONDER IF SOMETHING WOULD CHANGE IF I SAW HIM...
I WONDER HOW MINATO AS HE IS NOW WOULD SKATE
SPORTS PLAZA
SPORTS PLAZA
NO! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

STRAIN
YES, MORE GENTLY,
FEMININE AND CHARM-ING.
GLOOM
I'm being reduced to ashes
YOU CAN DO THE POSITIONS, BUT
SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.
Your expression is stiff
TAKE A SHORT BREAK.
Cute!
Cute!
Cute!
What is cute?!
huff
huff

SHE'S FEMININE AND PRETTY.
IT SUITS HER.
"GISELLE"
A MAIDEN IN LOVE.
A PROGRAM LIKE THIS IS SIMILAR TO HERS,
THE GIRL WHO'S ALMOST NANAO'S GIRLFRIEND.
A GIRL LIKE HER IS MADE FOR THIS.
BUT NOW WHEN I THINK ABOUT HIM, IT'S KINDA LIKE HE'S AN IDOL...
It's competition during middle school
NANAO
PRINCE...
IS IT THE FEELING OF UNREQUITED LOVE WITH NANAO?

IS THIS LOVE... A MAIDEN IN LOVE? IS IT AN EXTENSION OF FRIENDSHIP?
THEN... IS MINATO THE REAL THING...?
HMM...
YAWN
OH NO, I'VE GOTTEN SLEEPY
GOING FROM A COLD TO A WARM PLACE IS MAKING ME SLEEPY
NOD
NOD
I'LL JUST CLOSE MY EYES FOR A LITTLE WHILE

HUH...?!

End of "The Ice Queen" Chapter 5